

July 21, 2021

The Brimfield Board of Education held its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School commons. Board President Updyke called the meeting to order with the following members present: Coyle, Meyer, Snyder, Bell, Graham, and Johnson. Jay Greening from Miller, Hall, & Triggs was seated nearby.

The board recognized and thanked all visitors.

Johnson moved and Coyle seconded to approve the minutes from:

- June 16, 2021 – Special Meeting & Closed Session
- June 16, 2021 – Regular Meeting & Closed Session

Motion Carried

Bell moved and Johnson seconded to approve the minutes from July 14, 2021 Special Meeting.

Motion Carried

Updyke reported. He thanked the administrators, staff, legal counsel, and insurance carrier for their assistance in helping draft the back to school plan that was drafted for this meeting.

Superintendent Shinall reported on his board report. He thanked the custodial staff in the district and recognized their reception of the Hometown Heroes award. He mentioned the recent guidance approved by the CDC and IDPH regarding COVID-19. Lastly, Shinall briefed the Board on the Return to School Plan.

High School Principal Robison reported. He shared SAT information. The custodial staff (Jim, Mandi, Ashley C. and Nathan) was recognized as Team Elite. Robison then briefed on class schedules. Lastly, he mentioned the focus for next year (Trust the Process) and Brimfield's hashtag.

Grade School Principal Albritton reported. She mentioned the number of students enrolled in the summer program (76); there will be benchmark testing to show effectiveness of the program. The Board was updated on registration and summer maintenance. Ashley Cornelison and Kathryn Newman were thanked for their assistance. Briefs were given on the secure entrance, the Technology Coordinator's office relocation, and the status of the parking lot sealcoating.

There was new business to discuss/approve.

Meyer moved, contingent on possible changes, and Johnson seconded to approve the Return to School Plan. Updyke started the discussion by sharing the three roles of the Board of Education and emphasized the importance of the Administrators' role(s). There was a lengthy discussion about striking verbiage from the plan. Jay Greening, the district's attorney, provided context and answers to questions asked by Board members. Do we not have some control? Yes, but the school and county health department can coordinate. Did we ever quarantine based on a probable case? The district nurse, Lonna Sumner, was present amongst the visitors and was asked to answer. Up to this point, no we have not quarantined anyone based on a probable case. From what date are the percentages reached for the mitigation tiers? Jay Greening mentioned that they are based on the zip code in which they are tested. The data is obtained from a database hosted by Northwestern University. There was an additional request to strike some verbiage and a question was presented about the realistic nature of socially distancing in the classroom. Grade School Principal Albritton mentioned that 3ft is more realistic than 6ft. Jay Greening mentioned that we want to be careful on what we strike from the plan due to the risk factor; he detailed potential legal avenues that can be taken due to the school and associated Board ignoring guidance. This draft was created so as to minimize risk, no matter how low

the risk might be, he explained, but, ultimately, it is the Board's decision. One Board member felt the need to undertake some risk and explained why. Lonna Sumner was asked about the current process and if it will change. Lonna described the current process and the possibility of more responsibility is going to fall on the health department. Jay Greening mentioned that insurance companies, at the start of the pandemic, did not have exclusions for communicable diseases; now you are seeing that most of them do. Lastly, six recommended changes to the draft were voted on, via hand count, with four passing. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Meyer moved and Johnson seconded to approve \$24,829.60 for the Brimfield Grade School Literacy Curriculum. Albritton described the necessity for the changes. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Snyder moved and Coyle seconded to approve \$16,864.90 to HEART for cabling and hosted material. Shinall explained the actual cost will be ½ due to ERATE coverage. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Bell seconded to approve the Board of Education Committee Assignments. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Jared Schlipf was then asked to provide details on getting a bass fishing team organized. Jared explained that the team would ask more from the community than the school as there would be a need of volunteer captains and boats. An organized team could require Brimfield to co-op with Farmington. Tournaments would be in the fall, but the bass fishing team competes in the spring. A brief discussion followed. More information forthcoming.

Johnson moved and Graham seconded to approve the resignation of Jon Florey – BGS Assistant Softball Coach. Motion carried

Snyder moved and Bell seconded to approve the resignation of Tyler Harr – BHS & BGS Band / Choir. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Snyder seconded to approve the resignation of Josh McKown – BHS Assistant Baseball Coach. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Coyle seconded to approve the hiring of Pam Asbell – BGS Teacher, pending Certification. Shinall briefed the board on the certification that we are waiting on. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Bell seconded to approve Erich Weiger - BHS & BGS Band / Choir, pending background check. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Johnson moved and Graham seconded to approve Lynne Breitbarth – BGS Cafeteria. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Meyer moved and Graham seconded to approve the Consent Calendar items. Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – abstain, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

Board President Updyke welcomed comments from the community members. Brianna and Josh Murdock shared their frustrations. They requested a resolution be passed. They shared their opinions on formal quarantine(s), testing programs, and when masks are required or recommended. Fawn Kieser shared her frustrations. She wishes to know what scientific data was used when drafting the plan. She explained that valuable learning time is lost during quarantine; children had to miss out on some baseball time last year. Jay Greening intervened and asked Superintendent Shinall to read Mitigation Tier 1. A very brief discussion followed. Lonna Sumner explained that the Health Department is trying to “single out” COVID-19 symptoms so that they are more obvious.

At 8:23pm, Meyer moved and Bell seconded to leave open session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public to determine its validity 5 ILCS 120/2c (1) Roll Call: Meyer – yes, Bell – yes, Johnson – yes, Snyder – yes, Graham – yes, Coyle – yes, Updyke – yes. Motion carried

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:16 p.m.

At 9:16 p.m. Meyer moved and Johnson seconded to adjourn the June 16, 2021 regular board meeting of the Brimfield CUSD #309 Board of Education. Motion carried

  
Board President

  
Board Secretary